

DOCKET NO. D-1967-080 CP-3

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

**Borough of Phoenixville
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Borough of Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by Pennoni Associates Inc. (Pennoni) on behalf of the Borough of Phoenixville (Phoenixville or docket holder) on December 13, 2011 (Application), for renewal of an existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0027154 for this project was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on January 23, 2012, effective February 1, 2012.

The Application was reviewed for continuation of the project in the Comprehensive Plan and approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Chester County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on July 11, 2012.

A. DESCRIPTION

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew the approval of the existing 4.0 million gallons per day (mgd) Phoenixville WWTP and its related discharge.
2. **Location.** The existing WWTP will continue to discharge treated effluent to the Schuylkill River at River Mile 92.47 – 35.0 (Delaware River – Schuylkill River) via Outfall No. 001, in the Borough of Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	40° 07' 47"	75° 30' 10"

3. **Area Served.** The existing WWTP will continue serve the Borough of Phoenixville and portions of Schuylkill and East Pikeland Townships, all located in Chester County, Pennsylvania. For the purpose of defining the Area Served, the Application is incorporated herein by reference consistent with conditions contained in the DECISION section of this docket.

4. **Physical Features.**

a. **Design Criteria.** The docket holder operates an existing 4.0 mgd WWTP.

b. **Facilities.** The existing WWTP consists of a bar screen channel, a grit chamber, three (3) primary settling/clarifier tanks, two (2) trickling filters, three (3) aeration tanks, four (4) final clarifiers, two (2) anaerobic digesters, two (2) sludge storage tanks, a centrifuge, sludge drying beds, and an ultraviolet disinfection system.

The project facilities aren't located in the 100-year floodplain.

Wasted sludge will continue to be hauled off-site by a licensed hauler for disposal at a (State-approved) facility.

c. **Water withdrawals.** The potable water supply in the project service area is supplied by the docket holder and was approved by the Commission on March 27, 1968 via Docket No. D-67-123 CP. Docket No. D-67-123 CP is outdated and does not conform with current Commission standards. DECISION Condition II.s. of this docket requires the docket holder to submit a renewal application to the Commission for Docket No. D-67-123 CP by September 9, 2012.

d. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** NPDES Permit No. PA0027154 was approved by the PADEP on January 23, 2012 (effective February 1, 2012) and includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 4.0 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as a warm water/migratory fishery (WWF/MF). The following average monthly effluent limits are among those listed in the NPDES Permit and meet or are more stringent than the effluent requirements of the DRBC.

EFFLUENT TABLE A-1: DRBC Parameters Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (WWTP)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
CBOD5 (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	20 mg/l (85% minimum removal*) 25 mg/l (85% minimum removal*)	As required by NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	8 mg/l 12 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Fecal Coliform	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES Permit

* DRBC Requirement

EFFLUENT TABLE A-2: DRBC Parameters Not Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (WWTP)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
Total Dissolved Solids*	Monitor & Report *	Quarterly **

* DRBC Requirement

** See DECISION Condition II.q.

The docket holder has two stormwater outfalls (Outfalls Nos. 002 and 003) that the PADEP has required monitoring for in addition to Outfall No. 001. The DRBC does not require monitoring for stormwater only outfalls. Additionally, the PADEP has required Phosphorous and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) monitoring for Outfall No. 001. The DRBC does not require Phosphorous or DO effluent limits/monitoring outside of Special Protection Waters.

e. Cost. There are no construction costs associated with this renewal project.

f. Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan. The 2.0 mgd Phoenixville WWTP was included in the Comprehensive Plan upon approval of Resolution No. R-62-14 on July 25, 1962. Docket No. D-67-80 CP continued approval of the 2.0 mgd WWTP and approved the expansion to 4.0 mgd on July 26, 1967. Docket No. D-67-80 CP-2 continued approval of the 4.0 mgd WWTP in the Comprehensive Plan just as this docket does (See DECISION Condition I.c.).

B. FINDINGS

The purpose of this docket is to renew the approval of the existing 4.0 million gallons per day (mgd) Phoenixville WWTP and its related discharge.

At the project site, the Schuylkill River has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years of 226 mgd (349 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the design wastewater discharge from the 4.0 mgd WWTP is 58.5 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply downstream of the project discharge is operated by the Pennsylvania American Water Company at Norristown, approximately 10.5 river miles away on the Schuylkill River.

The project does not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan and is designed to prevent substantial adverse impact on the water resources related environment, while sustaining the current and future water uses and development of the water resources of the Basin.

The limits in the NPDES Permit are in compliance with Commission effluent quality requirements, where applicable.

The project is designed to produce a discharge meeting the effluent requirements as set forth in the *Water Quality Regulations* of the DRBC.

C. DECISION

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-1967-080 CP-3 below:

a. The project described in Docket No. D-67-80 CP-2 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-1967-080 CP-3; and

b. Docket No. D-67-80 CP-2 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-1967-080 CP-3; and

c. The project and the appurtenant facilities described in the Section A “Physical Features” of this docket shall be added to the Comprehensive Plan.

II. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in the Section A “Physical Features” of this docket are approved pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact*, subject to the following conditions:

a. Docket approval is subject to all conditions, requirements, and limitations imposed by the PADEP in its NPDES Permit, and such conditions, requirements, and limitations are incorporated herein, unless they are less stringent than the Commission’s.

b. The facility and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.

c. The facility shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the *Water Quality Regulations* of the DRBC.

d. The docket holder shall comply with the requirements contained in the Effluent Tables in Section A.4.d. of this docket. The docket holder shall submit the required monitoring results directly to the DRBC Project Review Section. The monitoring results shall be submitted annually, absent any observed limit violations, by January 31. If a DRBC effluent limit is violated, the docket holder shall submit the result(s) to the DRBC within 30 days of the violation(s) and provide a written explanation that states the action(s) the docket holder has taken to correct the violation(s) and protect against any future violations.

e. Except as otherwise authorized by this docket, if the docket holder seeks relief from any limitation based upon a DRBC water quality standard or minimum treatment requirement, the docket holder shall apply for approval from the Executive Director or for a docket revision in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *Compact* and the *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

f. If at any time the receiving treatment plant proves unable to produce an effluent that is consistent with the requirements of this docket approval, no further connections shall be permitted until the deficiency is remedied.

g. Nothing herein shall be construed to exempt the docket holder from obtaining all necessary permits and/or approvals from other State, Federal or local government agencies having jurisdiction over this project.

h. The discharge of wastewater shall not increase the ambient temperatures of the receiving waters by more than 5°F, nor shall such discharge result in stream temperatures exceeding 87°F. (Non-tidal, Non-trout Waters)

i. The docket holder is permitted to treat and discharge the categories of wastewaters defined in the “Area Served” section of this docket.

j. The docket holder shall make wastewater discharge in such a manner as to avoid injury or damage to fish or wildlife and shall avoid any injury to public or private property.

k. No sewer service connections shall be made to newly constructed premises with plumbing fixtures and fittings that do not comply with water conservation performance standards contained in Resolution No. 88-2 (Revision 2).

l. Nothing in this docket approval shall be construed as limiting the authority of DRBC to adopt and apply charges or other fees to this discharge or project.

m. The issuance of this docket approval shall not create any private or proprietary rights in the waters of the Basin, and the Commission reserves the right to amend, suspend or rescind the docket for cause, in order to ensure proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

n. A complete application for the renewal of this docket, or a notice of intent to cease the operations (withdrawal, discharge, etc.) approved by this docket by the expiration date, must be submitted to the DRBC at least 12 months prior to the expiration date below (unless permission has been granted by the DRBC for submission at a later date), using the appropriate DRBC application form. In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the DRBC is unable, through no fault of the docket holder, to reissue the docket before the expiration date below, the terms and conditions of this docket will remain fully effective and enforceable against the docket holder pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

o. The Executive Director may modify or suspend this approval or any condition thereof, or require mitigating measures pending additional review, if in the Executive Director's judgment such modification or suspension is required to protect the water resources of the Basin.

p. Any person who objects to a docket decision by the Commission may request a hearing in accordance with Article 6 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure. In accordance with Section 15.1(p) of the Delaware River Basin Compact, cases and controversies arising under the Compact are reviewable in the United States district courts.

q. The docket holder may request of the Executive Director in writing the substitution of specific conductance for TDS. The request should include information that supports the effluent specific correlation between TDS and specific conductance. Upon review, the Executive Director may modify the docket to allow the substitution of specific conductance for TDS monitoring.

r. The docket holder is prohibited from treating/pre-treating any hydraulic fracturing wastewater from sources in or out of the Basin at this time. Should the docket holder wish to treat/pre-treat hydraulic fracturing wastewater in the future, the docket holder will need to first apply to the Commission to renew this docket and be issued a revised docket allowing such treatment and an expanded service area. Failure to obtain this approval prior to treatment/pre-treatment will result in action by the Commission.

s. The docket holder shall submit a renewal application for Docket No. D-67-123 CP to the Commission by September 9, 2012.

BY THE COMMISSION

DATE APPROVED: July 11, 2012

EXPIRATION DATE: January 31, 2017